CLAIMS

It is claimed that:

1. A re-selection method for switching a packet data session from a first packet data

channel in one cell of a cellular communication network to a second packet data

5   channel in another cell comprising:

> beginning a packet data session on a packet data channel in a first cell of said
>
> > network;
>
> during said packet data session, monitoring the channel quality of adjacent control
>
> > channels in adjacent cells;
>
10 identifying one or more adjacent control channels as potential re-selection
>
> > candidates;
>
> reading at least part of the broadcast information on the control channel identified as
>
> > a re-selection candidate while engaged in said packet data session and prior to
> >
> > initiating a re-selection procedure;
>
15 when a predetermined re-selection criteria is met, switching to a new packet data
>
> > channel in the cell corresponding to a selected one of said re-selection
> >
> > candidates;
>
> resuming the packet data session on said new packet data channel.

20 2.   The re-selection method of claim 1 wherein the re-selection criteria is based upon

a signal quality measure.

3. The re-selection method of claim 2 wherein the signal quality measure is a

measure of received signal strength on the control channel.

4. The re-selection method of claim 3 wherein an adjacent control channel is

5   identified as a re-selection candidate based upon the received signal strength of the

control channel.

5. The re-selection method of claim 4 wherein an adjacent control channel is

identified as a re-selection candidate when it is one of the n strongest control channels

10   that are being monitored.

6. The re-selection method of claim 4 wherein an adjacent control channel is

identified as a re-selection candidate when the received signal strength reaches a

predetermined threshold.

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7.   A re-selection method comprising:

beginning a communication session on a traffic channel in a first cell;

during said communication session, reading at least part of the broadcast

information on the adjacent control channels in one or more adjacent cells that

5   are identified as potential re-selection candidates;

when a predetermined re-selection criteria is met, switching to a new traffic channel

in the cell corresponding to a selected one of said re-selection candidates; and

resuming the packet data session on said new packet data channel.

10   8.   The re-selection method of claim 7 wherein the re-selection criteria is based upon

a signal quality measure.

9.   The re-selection method of claim 8 wherein the signal quality measure is a

measure of received signal strength on the control channel.

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10.   The re-selection method of claim 9 wherein an adjacent control channel is

identified as a re-selection candidate based upon the received signal strength of the

control channel.

11.   The re-selection method of claim 10 wherein an adjacent control channel is identified as a re-selection candidate when it is one of the n strongest control channels that are being monitored.

5   12.   The re-selection method of claim 10 wherein an adjacent control channel is identified as a re-selection candidate when the received signal strength reaches a predetermined threshold.

13.   The re-selection method of claim 1 wherein said reading comprises reading, from

10   said control channel identified as a re-selection candidate, at least one of items selected from the group consisting of system identification information, channel-specific access parameters, protocol parameters, neighbor list for that cell, the corresponding serving cell's coincidental DCCH pointers, and routing area identity.

14. A re-selection method comprising:

beginning a communication session on a traffic channel in a first cell;

during said communication session, reading at least part of the broadcast

information on the adjacent control channels in one or more adjacent cells

5   that are identified as potential re-selection candidates;

when a predetermined re-selection criteria is met, switching to a new traffic

channel in the cell corresponding to a selected one of said re-selection

candidates;

resuming the packet data session on said new packet data channel; and

10   wherein said reading comprises reading, from said control channels identified as

potential re-selection candidates, at least one of items selected from the

group consisting of system identification information, channel-specific access

parameters, protocol parameters, neighbor list for that cell, the corresponding

serving cell's coincidental DCCH pointers, and routing area identity.